09/998,045
Amend. Date: March 22, 2005
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Presently presented) A method for appending information to a graphical image file comprising the steps of:

creating a graphical image, said image containing at least one object;

creating a graphical image file of said created graphical image;

defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area;

inserting the information about the defined hotspot area into a data record; and

generating an appendix to the graphical image, by reading the length of the graphical file, appending the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area to the graphical image file and thereby creating a new graphical image file, and appending the length of the new graphical image file to the end of the new file, the generated appendix being the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area.

Claim 7 (Original) The method as described in claim 6 wherein the length of the new graphical image file is stored in a field at the end of the graphical image file.

Claim 8 (Original) The method as described in claim 6 further comprising after said storing step, the step of decoding the data in the appendix to the graphical image file.

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Claim 9 (Original) The method as described in claim 8 wherein said decoding step further comprises the steps of:

reading the length of the new graphical image file including the appendix portion of the file;

determining whether this graphical image file has an appendix;

determining the length of the original graphical image file when there is an appendix;

determining the starting location of the appended information; and

reading all information contained in the appended portion of the graphical image file.

Claim 10 (Original) The method as described in claim 9 wherein said length determination step comprises subtracting n number of bytes from the length of the new graphical image file.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 10 9 wherein said start location determination step comprises using the length of the new graphical image file obtained from said length determination step in claim 10 to find a start of information field in the graphical image file.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for appending information to a graphical image file comprising:

instructions for creating a graphical image, said image containing at least one object;

instructions for creating a graphical image file of said created graphical image;

instructions for defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area;

instructions for inserting the information about the defined hotspot area into a data record; and

instructions for generating an appendix to the graphical image file, comprising instructions for reading the length of the graphical image file, instructions for appending the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area to the graphical image file and thereby creating a new graphical image file, instructions for appending the length of the new graphical image file to the end of said new file and instructions for storing the new graphical image file, the appendix being the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area.

Claim 13 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising instructions for appending the generated appendix to the graphical image file.

Claim 14 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein the instructions for defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area further comprises instructions for using an image creation tool.

Claim 15 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein the instructions for defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area further comprises instructions for using an external tool.

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Claim 17 (Previously presented) The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein said storing instructions further comprise instructions for storing the length of the new graphical image file at the end of the graphical image file.

Claim 18 (Previously presented) The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising after said storing instructions, instructions for decoding the data in the appendix to the graphical image file.

Claim 19 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 18 wherein said decoding instructions further comprise:

instructions for reading the length of the new graphical image file including the appendix portion of the file;

instructions for determining whether this graphical image file has an appendix; instructions for determining the length of the original graphical image file when there is an appendix;

instructions for determining the starting location of the appended information; and

instructions for reading all information contained in the appended portion of the graphical image file.

Claim 20 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 19 wherein said length determination instructions further comprise instructions for subtracting n number of bytes from the length of the new graphical image file.

Claim 21 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 20 wherein said start location determination instructions further comprise instructions for using the length to find a start of information field in the graphical image file.

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